AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) An information processing apparatus capable of acquiring ~~various~~ status information of ~~plural~~ a peripheral apparatus on a network, comprising:

~~communication means for executing a communication protocol for acquiring the status information;~~

~~designation means for designating status information to be acquired for each of various phenomena;~~

acquisition means for acquiring the status information ~~by said communication means~~ from the ~~supply source of the status information designated by said designation means~~ peripheral apparatus;

memory means for memorizing a time-out parameter that indicates a time-out time ~~for executing said communication protocol for each phenomenon that can be designated by said designation means~~ in a communication process for acquiring the status information corresponding to each event on the peripheral apparatus;

~~link~~ grouping means for ~~linking, by the unit of a predetermined group,~~ grouping parameters ~~respectively~~ corresponding to the ~~objects and~~ respective events on the peripheral apparatus and related to the time-out parameter memorized by said memory means into a predetermined group;

alteration means for altering the value of ~~the parameter memorized by said memory means~~ one of the parameters grouped into the predetermined group by said grouping

means; and

control means adapted, ~~in case~~ in the event that the value of the one parameter is altered by said alteration means, to alter the ~~value~~ values of ~~a parameter linked with the altered parameter as a~~ the other parameters in the predetermined group according to the ~~content of such~~ alteration of the one parameter.

2. (Currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said time-out parameter includes a time-out time in said communication ~~protocol~~ process and a settable range for said time-out time; and

said control means is adapted to judge the load on said network based on the content of alteration by said alteration means and to increase or decrease the value of said time-out time or said settable range.

3. (Currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the ~~linking~~ grouping by said ~~link~~ grouping means is executed in the unit of a group based on the kind of the peripheral apparatus.

4. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said group includes a group of printers and/or a group of scanners and/or a group of modems.

5. (Currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the ~~linking~~ grouping by ~~the link~~ said grouping means is executed in the unit of a group based on the kind of connection between ~~the self~~ said information processing apparatus and the

peripheral apparatus.

6. (Currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein ~~the above-mentioned~~ said group includes a network connection group in which ~~the self~~ said information processing apparatus and the peripheral apparatus are connected through the network, and a local connection group in which ~~the self~~ said information processing apparatus and the peripheral apparatus are connected directly.

7. (Currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the ~~above-mentioned~~ network connection group includes a first group in which the peripheral apparatus is directly connected to the network and a second group in which the peripheral apparatus is connected through a gateway device ~~to the through a gateway device~~ to said network.

8. (Currently amended) An information processing method for acquiring ~~various~~ status information of ~~plural~~ a peripheral apparatus on a network, comprising:

~~a communication step of executing a communication protocol for acquiring the status information;~~

~~a designation step of designating status information to be acquired for each of various phenomena;~~

an acquisition step of acquiring the status information ~~by said communication step~~ from the ~~supply source of the status information designated by said designation step~~ peripheral apparatus;

a memory step of memorizing a time-out parameter that indicates a time-out time in a communication process for acquiring the status information corresponding to each event on the peripheral apparatus;

a grouping step of grouping parameters corresponding to the respective events on the peripheral apparatus and related to the time-out parameter memorized in said memory step into a predetermined group;

an alteration step of altering the value of ~~a time-out parameter that indicates a time-out time for executing said communication protocol, memorized by a memory for each phenomenon that can be designated in said designation step~~ one of the parameters grouped into the predetermined group in said grouping step; and

a control step adapted, ~~in case~~ in the event that the value of the one parameter is altered by said alteration step, to alter the ~~value~~ values of ~~a parameter in said memory, linked with said altered parameter as a~~ the other parameters in the predetermined group according to the ~~content of said~~ alteration of the one parameter.

9. (Currently amended) An information processing method according to claim 8, wherein said time-out parameter includes a time-out time in said communication ~~protocol~~ process and a settable range for said time-out time; and

said control step is adapted to judge the load on said network based on the content of alteration by said alteration step and to increase or decrease the value of said time-out time or said settable range according to said judgement.

10. (Currently amended) An information processing method according to claim 8,

wherein ~~the linking~~ said grouping is executed in the unit of a group based on the kind of the peripheral apparatus.

11. (Original) An information processing method according to claim 10, wherein said group includes a group of printers and/or a group of scanners and/or a group of modems.

12. (Currently amended) An information processing method according to claim 8, wherein said ~~linking~~ grouping is executed in the unit of a group based on the kind of connection between ~~the self~~ said information processing apparatus and the peripheral apparatus.

13. (Currently amended) An information processing method according to claim 12, wherein said group includes a network connection group in which ~~the self~~ said information processing apparatus and the peripheral apparatus are connected through said network, and a local connection group in which ~~the self~~ said information processing apparatus and the peripheral apparatus are connected directly.

14. (Original) An information processing method according to claim 13, wherein said network connection group further includes a first group in which the peripheral apparatus is directly connected to said network and a second group in which the peripheral apparatus is connected through a gateway device to said network.

15. (Currently amended) A computer readable memory storing a computer program to be executed in an information processing apparatus for acquiring ~~various~~ status information of

~~plural~~ a peripheral apparatus on a network, said computer program comprising:

~~a communication step of executing a communication protocol for acquiring the status information;~~

~~a designation step of designating status information to be acquired for each of various phenomena;~~

an acquisition step of acquiring the status information ~~by said communication step~~ from the ~~supply source of the status information designated by said designation step~~ peripheral apparatus;

a memory step of memorizing a time-out parameter that indicates a time-out time in a communication process for acquiring the status information corresponding to each event on the peripheral apparatus;

a grouping step of grouping parameters corresponding to the respective events on the peripheral apparatus and related to the time-out parameter memorized in said memory step into a predetermined group;

an alteration step of altering the value of ~~a time-out parameter that indicates a time-out time for executing said communication protocol, memorized by a memory for each phenomenon that can be designated in said designation step~~ one of the parameters grouped into the predetermined group in said grouping step; and

a control step adapted, ~~in case~~ in the event that the value of the one parameter is altered by said alteration step, to alter the ~~value~~ values of ~~a parameter in said memory, linked with said altered parameter as a~~ the other parameters in the predetermined group according to the ~~content of said~~ alteration of the one parameter.

16. (Currently amended) A computer readable memory according to claim 15, wherein said time-out parameter includes a time-out time in said communication ~~protocol~~ process and a settable range for said time-out time; and

said control step is adapted to judge the load on said network based on the content of alteration by said alteration step and to increase or decrease the value of said time-out time or said settable range according to said judgment.

17. (Currently amended) A computer readable memory according to claim 15, wherein ~~the linking~~ said grouping is executed in the unit of a group based on the kind of the peripheral apparatus.

18. (Original) A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said group includes a group of printers and/or a group of scanners and/or a group of modems.

19. (Currently amended) A computer readable memory according to claim 15, wherein said ~~linking~~ grouping is executed in the unit of a group based on the kind of connection between ~~the self~~ said information processing apparatus and the peripheral apparatus.

20. (Currently amended) A computer readable memory according to claim 19, wherein said group includes a network connection group in which ~~the self~~ said information processing apparatus and the peripheral apparatus are connected through said network, and a local connection group in which ~~the self~~ said information processing apparatus and the peripheral apparatus are connected directly.

21. (Original) A computer readable memory according to claim 20, wherein said network connection group further includes a first group in which the peripheral apparatus is directly connected to said network and a second group in which the peripheral apparatus is connected through a gateway device to said network.

22.-34 (Cancelled)